

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13. (canceled)

14. (new) A trial spacer set for insertion into intervertebral disc spaces comprising:

a plurality of intervertebral spacers having different axial widths;

at least one of said intervertebral spacers having a porous surface.

15. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of said intervertebral spacers has a beveled edge.

16. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 14, wherein each said intervertebral spacer has an upper surface and a lower surface, and wherein at least one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces.

17. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one of said intervertebral spacers having tapered upper and lower surfaces includes at least two relative angle designation marks on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

18. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 14, wherein each said intervertebral spacer has an upper surface and a lower surface, and wherein a first one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces forming a first taper angle and a second one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces forming a second taper angle that is different than the first taper angle.

19. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 14, wherein each said intervertebral spacer comprises:

a first flange defining a top surface of said intervertebral spacer;

a second flange defining a bottom surface of said intervertebral spacer;

a central trunk extending between said first and second flanges;

an annular groove extending between said first and second flanges and surrounding said central trunk, wherein said annular groove has a floor adjacent said central trunk and an opening adjacent outer edges of said first and second flanges.

20. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 19, wherein said annular groove has a constant width extending between the floor of said annular groove and the opening of said annular groove.

21. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 19, wherein said annular grooves of said intervertebral spacers have similar dimensions.

22. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 19, wherein said first and second flanges of a first one of said intervertebral spacers are thicker than said first and second flanges of a second one of said intervertebral spacers.

23. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 19, wherein said annular groove tapers between the floor of said annular groove and the opening of said annular groove.

24. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 23, wherein said annular grooves of said intervertebral spacers have similar dimensions.

25. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 24, wherein said first and second flanges of a first one of said intervertebral spacers are thicker than said first and second flanges of a second one of said intervertebral spacers.

26. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 23, wherein said tapered annular groove has a height that is smaller at the floor of said annular groove and larger at the opening of said annular groove.

27. (new) An intervertebral implant set comprising:

a plurality of intervertebral spacers, each said intervertebral spacer having

a porous surface,

a different axial width,

a first flange defining a top surface of said intervertebral spacer,

a second flange defining a bottom surface of said intervertebral spacer,

a central trunk extending between said first and second flanges, and

an annular groove extending between said first and second flanges and surrounding said central trunk, wherein said annular groove has a floor adjacent said central trunk and an opening adjacent outer edges of said first and second flanges.

28 (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least one of said intervertebral spacers has a beveled edge.

29. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces.

30. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 29, wherein the at least one of said intervertebral spacers having diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces includes at least two relative angle designation marks on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

31. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein a first one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces forming a first taper angle and a second one of said intervertebral spacers has diametrically tapered upper and lower surfaces forming a second taper angle that is different than the first taper angle.

32. (new) The trial spacer as claimed in 27, wherein said annular groove tapers between the floor of said annular groove and the opening of said annular groove.

33. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said annular groove has a constant width extending between the floor of said groove and the opening of said groove.

34. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said annular grooves of said plurality of intervertebral spacers have similar dimensions.

35. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said first and second flanges of a first one of said intervertebral spacers are thicker than said first and second flanges of a second one of said intervertebral spacers.

36. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said annular groove tapers between the floor of said groove and the opening of said groove.

37. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said annular grooves of said intervertebral spacers have similar dimensions.

38. (new) The trial spacer set as claimed in claim 27, wherein said first and second flanges of a first one of said intervertebral spacers are thicker than said first and second flanges of a second one of said intervertebral spacers.

39. (new) An intervertebral spacer set comprising:
a plurality of sequentially axially wider disc spacers;
at least one of said plurality of sequentially axially wider disc spacers having a porous surface.

40. (new) The intervertebral spacer set as claimed in claim 39, wherein each said disc spacer element includes beveled upper and lower circumferential radial edges.